

August 1, 2018

Michael J. Wilhelm
Chief, Policy and Licensing Division
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 12th Street SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: Denver Wireless Emergency Alert Test

Dear Chief Wilhelm:

The City and County of Denver's Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEM) would like to request a FCC Rule Waiver to conduct a live Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) test for the City and County of Denver on Wednesday, September 5, 2018, at 11:00 AM MDT with a backup date of Thursdays, September 13, 2018, at 11:00 AM MDT.

If approved, the City and County of Denver would use the IPAWS-OPEN module of WebEOC to issue the test message between the hours of 11:00 AM MDT to 11:30 AM MDT. Denver International Airport staff will utilize the Everbridge platform as a backup system should the first alert fail to send correctly through WebEOC. This test message will be sent through the WEA text portion of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) and will only be broadcast to cell phones within the geographical boundaries of the City and County of Denver. The test message will read: This is a test of the Wireless Emergency Alert System for Denver, CO. This is only a test.

Denver's OEM is tasked with providing public information and warning, (including emergency alert notifications), to all residents and officials within the City and County of Denver during emergencies and incidents that impact life, safety, and property. The purpose of this test is to ensure that the WEA system will work during such emergencies. It is essential that the public be familiar with WEA, and that Denver OEM be proficient in the use of sending a WEA message before the initiation of an actual alert is necessary for the City and County of Denver. We believe that it is imperative to test the system now, rather than wait until May 2019 when the FCC's end-to-end testing rules become active. This planned test would be the first live test of the WEA system by the City and County of Denver. It is not intended to be a substitute for other scheduled WEA tests.

Denver OEM's Public Information Officer (PIO) is currently working on a multi-media marketing plan for the proposed upcoming Denver WEA test to ensure public understanding of the function and utility of the Wireless Emergency Alerts. The PIO is also focusing marketing on messaging and awareness, so that the general public understands that the September 5th.

Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
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WEA alert is just a test. This plan will be shared with the all City and County of Denver staff, major local media outlets, neighboring jurisdictions, PIOs and will be posted on social media. Special coordination will take place with Denver Police, Denver Fire, Denver 311, and Denver 911 to ensure that they are all aware of the planned test. The Emergency Managers plan to record test results and provide a detailed account of any problems that occur in the distribution of the WEA test to your office.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Loa Esquilín García, Public Information Officer, Denver OEM at Loa.Esquilin@Denvergov.org or 720-557-5661.

Sincerely,



Ryan Broughton, CEM®, CBCP

Executive Director

Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security